

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application and claims 1-12 and 16-22 are withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 14 are amended. Reconsideration of the present application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In accordance with the Examiner's request, this response affirms that a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, claims 13-15.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by both U.S. Patent No. 5,878,662 to McCue and U.S. Patent No. 6,038,971 to Fischer. Similarly, the Office Action rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 13, claim 13 recites a method for manufacturing a screen printing plate, comprising the steps of providing an ink permeable member through which ink can permeate; ejecting a fluid ink blocking material for blocking permeation of ink onto the ink permeable member such that a pattern of ink blocking material adheres to the ink permeable member, thereby forming the pattern of ink blocking material on the ink permeable member; and applying pressure to the ink blocking material ejected onto the ink permeable member.

McCue discloses a screen preparation apparatus 10 used to apply a stencil coating 48 to selected portions of a screen 11, whereupon after the stencil coating 48 has been applied to the screen 11, it is exposed to a light source 50 that cures or hardens a steel coating.

Fischer discloses that in a production of a screen-printing stencil, a covering layer 3 is applied to some regions of fine-mesh screen 1 in accordance with the desired printing pattern by a spray head, that could be controlled and defined by a pattern in accordance with spraying

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signals, for the application of a covering layer 3 to the screen 1 by a transferring printing roll

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In contrast, claim 13 recites a method for manufacturing a screen printing plate, comprising the steps of providing an ink permeable member through which ink can permeate, ejecting a fluid ink blocking material for blocking permeation of ink onto the ink permeable member and applying pressure to the ink blocking material ejected onto the ink permeable member.

None of the applied art teaches or suggests applying pressure to the ink blocking material ejected onto the ink permeable member. Furthermore, while McCue discloses a screen preparation apparatus 10 used to apply a stencil coating 48 to selected portions of screen 11, after the stencil coating 48 has been applied to the screen 11 the stencil coating 48 must be exposed to a light source 50 that cures or hardens the stencil coating. Fischer merely discloses that the covering layer 3 is applied to some regions of fine-mesh screen 1, in accordance with a desired printing pattern, by a spray head in a production of screen-printing stencil.

The features of claim 13 provide for fluid ink blocking material to be directly applied imagewise onto the ink permeable member. Moreover, minimal decrease in image sharpness is caused by irregular reflections of light and a pattern of ink blocking material having various sharp edges can be formed.

Thus, neither McCue nor Fischer disclose each and every feature recited in claim 13. As such, claim 13 is distinguishable over the applied art. Furthermore, claim 15 which depends from claim 13, is likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the additional features it recites.

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With respect to the rejection of claim 14, claim 14 has been amended to recite a method for manufacturing a screen printing plate comprising the steps of providing a transfer member, having a variable temperature.

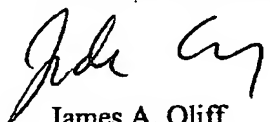
Fischer does not disclose a transfer member having a variable temperature as claimed in claim 14. Accordingly, Fischer fails to disclose all of the features of the claimed invention. Thus, Fischer fails to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of claim 14. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants' respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 13-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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